

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **insert --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS-- before claim 1, and amend claims 1-8** as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals ~~of the type which consists of~~ comprising:

a switch (VCX) ~~designed~~ arranged to be linked ~~on the one hand~~ to at least one ~~other~~ external network and ~~on the other hand~~ to a local access network (RLA), ~~[[the]]~~ said local access network (RLA) being connected to a plurality of radio base stations (BR), each ~~designed~~ radio base station being arranged to enter into communication with mobile terminals (MT), each mobile terminal (MT) being arranged for receiving or sending user cells on a virtual channel ~~identified~~ identifiable by a fixed virtual path identifier ~~fixed once and for all~~ and a virtual circuit identifier ~~which is~~ allocated to ~~it~~ said virtual path identifier at the time ~~the~~ a call is established, and ~~signalling~~ signaling cells on a virtual channel ~~identified~~ identifiable by a virtual path identifier and a fixed virtual circuit identifier ~~fixed once and for all~~, the switch (VCX) being ~~designed~~ arranged to allocate, to each user channel, a virtual path identifier and a virtual circuit identifier and, to each ~~signalling~~ signaling channel, a virtual path identifier equal to the virtual path identifier of the user ~~circuit~~ channel and a fixed virtual circuit identifier ~~fixed once~~

~~and for all, characterised in that~~ the local access network (RLA) ~~is designed~~ being arranged to ~~provide the~~ transport of the user cells, ~~and that of the signalling~~ signaling cells in channels ~~whose~~ having predetermined virtual path identifiers ~~are~~ predetermined, and ~~in that, when a~~ the mobile terminal (MT) ~~enters~~ and the network being arranged so that in response to the mobile terminal entering into the coverage of ~~[[the]]~~ said network, a ~~signalling~~ signaling channel is formed between ~~[[the]]~~ said terminal (MT) and ~~[[the]]~~ said switch (VCX), the switch (VCX) being arranged for ~~determining, to do this,~~ a virtual path identifier (VPIu) which, associated with the predetermined ~~signalling~~ signaling virtual circuit identifier, ~~identifies the~~ is arranged for identifying said ~~signalling~~ signaling channel at the switch (VCX), and the local access network (RLA) being arranged for ~~determining, to do this,~~ a virtual circuit identifier (VCI-sig), which, associated with the ~~signalling~~ signaling virtual path identifier, ~~identifies~~ is arranged for identifying, at ~~[[the]]~~ said network (RLA), ~~[[the]]~~ said ~~signalling~~ signaling channel, and at the time a communication is established, the switch (VCX) ~~allocates~~ is arranged to allocate, to the user channel providing the transport of the user cells of ~~[[the]]~~ said communication, a virtual circuit identifier (VCI dat) which is associated, at the switch (VCX), with the virtual path identifier (VPIu) already

allocated to the ~~signalling~~ signaling channel, at the local network (RLA), with the virtual path identifier ~~provided~~ for the transport of the user cells, and, at the terminal, with the predetermined virtual path identifier.

2. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising means ~~are provided~~ for providing a one-to-one correspondence between the virtual path identifier (VPIu) assigned, at the switch (VCX), to the transport of the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells and the virtual circuit identifier (VCI sig) assigned, at the local network (RLA), to the transport of the same cells.

3. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the virtual circuit identifier (VCI sig) assigned, at the local network (RLA), to the transport of the same cells is equal to the virtual path identifier (VPIu) assigned, at the switch (VCX), to the transport of the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells.

4. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ further including an allocation table ~~which maps~~ for mapping, to each virtual path identifier VPI which the switch (VCX) is capable of allocating to a ~~signalling~~ signaling channel, a group of virtual

circuit identifiers VCI different from one VPI identifier to another, ~~[[the]]~~ said switch (VCX) being arranged for allocating to the user channel, at the time it is ~~formed~~ connected, at least one virtual circuit identifier (VCI_dat) from the group corresponding to the virtual path identifier (VPI_u) of ~~[[the]]~~ said user channel.

5. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes further~~ including an adaptation unit for effecting the translation, both in the uplink direction and in the downlink direction, ~~on the one hand~~ of (a) the virtual path identifiers respectively assigned, in the local network (RLA), to the user cells and the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, into the corresponding predetermined identifiers in ~~[[the]]~~ said terminal (MT), and vice versa and, ~~on the other hand, of~~ (b) the virtual circuit identifier assigned, in the local network (RLA), to the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, into the corresponding predetermined identifier in ~~[[the]]~~ said terminal (MT), and vice versa.

6. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes further~~ including an adaptation server (ARX) for effecting the translation, both in the uplink direction and in the downlink

direction, ~~on the one hand~~ of (a) the virtual path identifier assigned, in the switch (VCX), to the user cells and the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, into the virtual path identifiers respectively assigned, in ~~[[the]]~~ said local network (RLA), to ~~[[the]]~~ said user and ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, and vice versa and ~~on the other hand~~ of (b) the virtual circuit identifier assigned, in the switch (VCX), to the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, into the identifier assigned, in ~~[[the]]~~ said local network, to ~~[[the]]~~ said ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, and vice versa.

7. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said local access network (RLA) ~~consists of~~ comprises a distribution network (RD) connected ~~on the one hand~~ to (a) a set of concentrators (CTR) to which the radio base stations (BR) are linked in order to establish or release, according to a given marking, the virtual half-connections of ~~the said~~ said base stations (BR) to ~~[[the]]~~ said distribution network (RD) and ~~on the other hand~~ (b) cross-connection equipment (BRIDGE) for providing connection of the distribution network (RD) to the switch (VCX), ~~[[the]]~~ said local access network (RLA) also having an adaption server (ARX) arranged so said signaling channel passes through ~~which the said signalling channel passes~~ it in order to be able ~~on the one hand~~ to (a) intercept and interpret

the ~~signalling~~ signaling messages exchanged between the terminals (MT) and the switch (VCX) and ~~then on the other hand,~~ (b) control the marking of the half-connections in the concentrators (CTR) on the basis of the content of these ~~signalling~~ signaling messages, ~~to control the marking of the half-connections in the concentrators (CTR).~~

8. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to ~~one of the preceeding claims characterised in that it includes~~ claim 1, further including a routing table in which, to each virtual path identifier capable of being allocated by the switch to ~~signalling~~ each signaling channel, ~~there corresponds~~ corresponding to the number of ~~the terminal~~ terminals, ~~[[the]]~~ said table being arranged to be updated according to ~~the~~ arrivals and departures of terminals into and out of the coverage of the access network for mobile termianls RLAM.